

JOURNAL OF ROBERT ROGERS THE
RANGER

EDITED

by

Victor Hugo Paltsits

Dar.
8 E 199
R 72
1933

LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH



THE BOOK IS THE PROPERTY OF

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
LIBRARY

JOURNAL OF ROBERT ROGERS THE RANGER ON
HIS EXPEDITION FOR RECEIVING THE
CAPITULATION OF WESTERN
FRENCH POSTS

(October 20, 1760, to February 14, 1761)

Edited by VICTOR HUGO PALTSITS

Victor Hugo Paltsits

JOURNAL OF ROBERT ROGERS THE RANGER ON
HIS EXPEDITION FOR RECEIVING THE
CAPITULATION OF WESTERN
FRENCH POSTS

(October 20, 1760, to February 14, 1761)

Edited by VICTOR HUGO PALTSITS

MAJOR ROBERT ROGERS presented on February 27, 1761, to Brigadier General Robert Monckton at New York, a report in journal form of his tour and transactions, pursuant to carrying out the orders he had received in October of the preceding year.

The original manuscript is part of some Monckton correspondence in the *George Chalmers Papers* owned by the Library. Because of the interest manifested in it by several historians of the Old West, this text is now made available for the first time. It will afford an opportunity of further detailed study.

The history of the manuscript, and its relation to the text as presented by Rogers in his printed *Journals*, is given under a separate heading. But the principal variations between the manuscript and printed text are pointed out in footnotes. Besides these, the annotations are limited to clarifying some names. This plan was rigorously assumed.

It is left to others to study in detail all the critical implications that may be derived from a comparative study, and to work out the difficult local topographical identifications of the route over which he travelled. Since the manuscript is in many places fuller in its topographical data, local students will find this text helpful. There are a few courses travelled for which the printed text has additional information. These are pointed out in footnotes. In other words, the two texts are complementary and deserve a joint consideration as evidence.

With the loss of all Canada to the English King in September, 1760, the last intercolonial-war in North America was virtually ended. There yet remained the necessity of bringing about the surrender of the interior and far western posts to complete the British occupancy. These western capitulations were entrusted to Rogers on September 13 by General Jeffery Amherst. Rogers was then within about a month of his twenty-ninth birthday — a birthday spent, with inclement weather, in the wilderness. None the less, his intrepidity had been seasoned during numerous excursions and incursions in uncharted or poorly mapped primeval forests.

The die was cast. Another gruelling adventure lay before him. To him it was just another duty. In his printed *Journals* (p. 208 ff.), Rogers relates the way by which he proceeded to General Monckton for his orders. He had been with his party at Fort Niagara *en route* from Toronto.

A fast-approaching winter season presaged the utility of dispatch. He had been instructed to join Monckton from Presque Isle, "wherever he might be, to receive his directions." Rogers set out on October 5th, in a bark canoe, accompanied by two of his lieutenants, Brehm and Holmes, and eight rangers. The rest of his command he left to Captain David Brewer, "with instructions to follow to Presque Isle." With his small contingent he left Lake Erie and shortly after noon of the 8th arrived at Presque Isle, where he tarried only a few hours.

He sent back some of his men to assist Brewer. With Brehm and Holmes he took his leave of Colonel Henry Bouquet, then commanding at Presque Isle, "and with three other men, in a bark-canoe, proceeded to French Creek, and at night encamped on the road, half way to Fort du Bouf," where he arrived the next morning. After resting here for three hours, they paddled their canoe down the river to some ten miles below the fort.

Rogers continues: "On the 10th [October] we encamped at the second crossings of the river, the land on both sides appeared to be good all the way. The 11th we reached the Mingo Cabbins, and the night of the 12th we lodged at Venango; from thence went down the River Ohio; and on the morning of the 17th I waited upon Brigadier Monckton [*sic*] at Pittsburgh, and delivered him General Amherst's dispatches, and my own instructions."

At Monckton's request, Rogers left Pittsburgh on the 20th for Presque Isle, where he presently had delivered to him Monckton's orders. From this point the manuscript journal begins.

THE MANUSCRIPT

The manuscript of the journal of 1760, as already intimated, is among a collection of *George Chalmers Papers* owned by The New York Public Library. More definitely, it is in the first of two folio volumes lettered "relating to Philadelphia."

These volumes contain mainly correspondence from the files of General Monckton, including letters he received from Henry Bouquet, Donald Campbell, and George Croghan. Some supply interpretative or supplementary data to the journal of Rogers. In volume I, pages 62-65, is found the journal of Croghan, from October 21, 1760, to January 7, 1761. It was Croghan who brought from Fort Pitt to Presque Isle, on October 31, the orders of Monckton to Rogers. In volume II, page 8, there is a letter from Campbell to Monckton, sent from Detroit, November 2, 1760; and at page 13 another from Campbell to Bouquet, December 2, 1760, the actual "copy" which Bouquet enclosed to Monckton with a note of December 25th.

The manuscript is what is technically called a "document signed," meaning that the body of the journal was written by another hand and is only signed by its author. The body of the manuscript is written in a neat, slanting, yet distinctive secretarial hand. Since it is found among the Monckton papers, with the usual endorsements they bear, it must be considered as the original official report.

How did these official papers of Monckton come into the possession of George Chalmers? We do not know. He had some attachment to the old British State Paper Office, but there is nothing to suggest that they were ever in that official custody. The body of Monckton's papers were never in an official repository until lately, when, subsequent to their sale in England, they were given to the Public Archives of Canada, where they now remain.

George Chalmers (1742–1825) was principally a Scottish historian and antiquary. He wrote or edited many volumes. He was educated at King's College, Aberdeen, and then studied law in Edinburgh. When he attained his majority, he came to America to practice law in Baltimore; but on the rise of the American Revolution he left America and settled in London.

About a dozen years of American experience, amidst the unusual political agitations in the period between the peace of 1763 and the warlike events of 1775, gave Chalmers an English-American historical interest, and some books he subsequently wrote, bore upon American political annals and the revolt of the Colonies. For these, as for his other growing interests, he collected an extensive library and innumerable manuscripts.

More than sixteen years after the death of Chalmers, his "very curious, valuable and extensive library" was catalogued and sold in three parts (1841–1842), by the auction-house of R. H. T. and C. Evans, in Pall-Mall, London. It was at the end of the third sale in November, 1842, that many manuscripts were dispersed. The cataloguing was very poorly done. Thomas Rodd, a London bookseller, purchased lots 1961 and 1962, two "very extensive collections relating to America," not described as bound. In 1843, another London bookseller, Thomas Thorpe, of Piccadilly, brought out a "Supplement to a Catalogue of Manuscripts . . . recently purchased," in which he offered as lot 869 two volumes, bound "neat, in calf," embracing papers "relating to Philadelphia, from 1760 to 1789, collected by the late George Chalmers, Esq." These and other volumes of the *Chalmers Papers* seem to have been purchased from Thorpe by Colonel Thomas Aspinwall, many years American consul at London. Colonel Aspinwall collected, principally between 1816 and 1854, a very fine library of Americana, the better part of which he sold in September, 1864, to Samuel Latham Mitchill Barlow, a lawyer of New York City.

Most of the series now known as *George Chalmers Papers* came to Mr. Barlow with the Aspinwall purchase, the two Philadelphia volumes being among them. He had, all told, twenty-one volumes, and when his library was sold at auction in February, 1890, the entire series was purchased in one lot by the Lenox Library, and, through consolidation later, became a part of The New York Public Library. A few more volumes in the same style of binding were acquired by the purchase of the library of George Bancroft. They are now together in the Manuscript Division. Other *Chalmers Papers*, as of Maryland, are among the Sparks manuscripts at Harvard University.

In 1871, the Massachusetts Historical Society published two volumes called "The Aspinwall Papers," in its *Collections*, fourth series, volumes IX and X,

under an editorial board of which Colonel Aspinwall was chairman. These papers were then acknowledged to be the property of Mr. Barlow. The Croghan journal and other papers, mentioned *supra*, are printed in the Society's volumes, but not the journal of Rogers. An account of Aspinwall and his library is in *Proceedings* of the Massachusetts Historical Society, second series, volume V, pages 313 ff.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL DATA

In 1765 there was published at "London: Printed for the Author, And sold by J. Millan, Bookseller, near Whitehall," a volume of *Journals of Major Robert Rogers*. In an "advertisement" to the volume, Rogers proposed "to continue this Journal, in a second volume," to contain his "travels into the country of the Cherokees, and the southern Indians," and his "second tour into the interior country, upon the great lakes," as well as an account of "the Indian wars in America since the year 1760; together with correct plans of all the British forts upon the continent." This second volume was to be published by subscription, and Rogers empowered John Millan, or those he might appoint, to receive subscriptions and give receipts for money paid thereon.

In place of the proposed second volume of *Journals*, Millan published for Rogers a companion volume, entitled: *A Concise Account of North America* (1765). This London bookseller and publisher had been in business at St.-Martins-in-the-Fields, Charing Cross, since 1727, and remained there till his death as an octogenarian in 1784. He is best known as the original publisher of some of the works of James Thomson, the poet.

The volume of printed *Journals* of 1765, judging from comparison with the manuscript journal of 1760, was dressed up in punctuation, paragraphing, and literary structure. The 1760 journal occupies pages 210-236 of the printed *Journals*.

Two pirated editions were printed at Dublin; the first by "R. Acheson, at Horace's-Head, William-street, for J. Milliken, No. 10. in Skinner-row," in 1769, and the second by "J. Potts, at Swift's Head in Dame-street," in 1770. The *Journals* were the basis of a nondescript volume entitled: *Reminiscences of the French War; containing Rogers' Expeditions*, and other matter, published by Luther Roby at Concord, N. H., in 1831; and another edition of the same, at the same place and in the same year, by T. H. Roby, is cited by bibliographers. Finally, in 1883, Joel Munsell's Sons, of Albany, N. Y., brought out a full reprint, with "an Introduction and Notes, And an Appendix," by Franklin B. Hough. In the Hough volume, the 1760 journal occupies pages 184-202.

As was the case with the *Journals*, the *Concise Account* of Rogers of 1765 was pirated and printed in Dublin in 1769, and 1770.

One more work belongs to the authorship of Rogers, namely: *Ponteach; or the Savages of America. A Tragedy*, also published at London by John Millan, in 1766. A well-edited reprint, by Allan Nevins, was issued by the Caxton Club of Chicago, in 1914.

(7)
A Journal of the March performed
by Major Robert Rogers
of the Rangers in pursuance to
the Orders of the Hon^{ble} Brig.
General Monckton.

Pillsburgh October 20. 1766

Having Received the general's
Commands, I set out this Morning, & got
back to Spessuick, the 30th Instant. Capt.
Jennsoll, arrived here the day after
I was after him & Mr. Pughan came to
this Place, & delivered me a Letter bearing
Gen^l Instructions to me directed!

Capt. Brewer was got there before us
with the Rangers from Niagara having
lost some of the Boats and part of the
provisions.

We immediately began to repair the
damaged Boats, and as there was an
Accident that a Barrel exploded from
Niagara with Provisions was lost.
I detached Capt. Brewer to Detroit
by Land with a Drive of 30 Deer,
supplied by Lieut. Postel.

Capt. Mail was sent the same time
back to Niagara for more
provisions and ordered to purchase
the North West of Lake Erie and
have about 25 Miles to the East of
the Strait between the Lake & Horn
and

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
University of Pittsburgh Library System

<http://www.archive.org/details/journalofrobertr00roge>

(1st) A Journal of the March performed by Major Robert Rogers of the Rangers in pursuance to the Orders of the Hon^{ble} Brig^r General Monckton.

Pittsburgh October 20 : 1760

Having Received the General's Commands, I Set out this Morning, & got back to Presquisle, the 30th Instant Captⁿ Campbell ¹ Arrived here the day after & soon after him M^r Croghan ² came to this place, & deliver'd me a Letter In-closing y^e Gen^l Instructions to me directed.

Captⁿ Brewer ³ was got there before us with the Rangers from Niagara having lost some of the Boats and part of the provisions.

We Immediately began to Repair the damaged Boats, and as there was an Account that a Vessel expected from Niagara with Provisions was lost I Dis-patched Captⁿ Brewer to Detroite by land with a Drove of 40 Oxen ; Supplied by Coll^o Boquet.⁴

Captⁿ Wait was about the Same time sent back to Niagara for more pro-visions, and Ordered to Cruize along the North Coast of Lake Erie, and half [*sic for halt*] about 20 Miles to the East of the Streight between the Lakes Huron (2) and Erie till further Orders.

Brewer had a Batteau to ferry his Party over the Creeks, five Horses ⁵ & Captⁿ Montour ⁶ with 20 : Indians composed of the Six Nations Delawares, & Shaw-anese to protect him from the Insults of the Enemy Indians, My Orders ⁷ of March from Presquisle over as follows. The Boats to Row two deep, first Major Rogers Boat a Breast of him M^r Croghan, Captⁿ Campbell follows with his Company, (The Rangers) next Liut^t Holmes the Rear Guard, with his own Boat, & that of Ensign Waits was to be ready to Assist any Boat that may be in Distress ; Boats in Distress are to fire a Gun, when M^r Holmes with the other Boat under his Command are Immediately to go to their Relief, take them to the Shore, or give such other Assistance as he thinks may be best.

When the Wind blows hard so that the Boats cannot keep their Order ; a Red flagg will be hoisted in the Majors Boat, then the Boats are not to Mind their Order but put after the flagg boat as fast as possible to the place of Landing, which the flagg Boat will allways be a Guide.

It is recommended to the Soldiers as well as Officers not to (3) Mind the Waves of the Lake, but when the Surff is high ; to Stick tight to their Oars, & the Steers-men to keep their Boats quartering on the Waves and Briskly follow, then nothing will happen by any Storm whatever ; Ten Rangers will be picked out of the best Steersmen & put into the Boats that Captⁿ Campbell's Company goes in ; It is

¹ Donald Campbell.

² George Croghan.

³ David Brewer.

⁴ Henry Bouquet.

⁵ Printed in *Journals*, "two horses."

⁶ Henry Montour. Misspelled "Monter" in printed text.

⁷ These orders, given within quotation marks in the printed *Journals*, vary enough to deserve careful comparison, as the one supplements or clarifies the other.

also recommended to the Officers Commanding those Boats, to hearken to the Steersmen in a Storm or bad weather in Managing their Boats. At Evening if it is thought Necessary to Row in the Night time, a Blew flagg will be hoisted in the Major's Boat, which is the Signal for the Boats to Dress, and then proceed in the following Manner; the Boats next the hindermost are to wait for the two in the Rear the two third for the Second two, and the two fourth for the third, and so on till the Boats leading a head, that the party may keep together, and prevent Separation; M^r Brehme⁸ is not to Mind the Order of March, but with his Whaleboats, and Crew to go as is most convenient for him to make his Observations, but is desired never to go past a League a head of the Detachment; and is allways to Join the Party at the Landing or Encamping.

(4) On Landing the Regulars are to Encamp in the Center, and Liut^t Holmes Division on the Right Wing with M^r Croghans People, Liut^t M^cCormick on the left Wing with his Division, M^r Jecquippe to be allways ready with his Mohegon Indians, which are the Piquet for this Detachment; part of which is allways to Encamp in the front of the Party, Captain Campbell will mount a Guard consisting of one Subaltern, One Serjeant and Thirty Privates; Immediately on Landing, for the Security of his own Encampment and Batteaux; Liut^t Holmes Division to keep a Guard of a Serjeant, and Ten Rangers on the Right, and Liut^t M^cCormick the like Number on the left, Liut^t M^cCormick to Act as Adjutant to the Detachment, and the Orderly Drum to Attend him, to beat the Serjeants Call;

The General to beat when Ordered by the Major; at which time the whole Party is to prepare for Embarking; The Troop half an hour after when all the Guards are to be Called in, and the Party embark Immediately After.

There is to be no firing of Guns in this Detachment without permission from the Commanding Officer, except when in distress on the Lake; No Man to go without the Centry's when in Camp (5) Without Orders, great care to be taken of the Arms, & the Officers to Review them Daily; Captⁿ Campbell will Order a Drum to beat for the Regulation of his Company, when landed at any time he thinks proper for Parading his Men; & Reviewing their Arms &^{ca}

It is not Doubted but that Due Attention will be paid to all orders given.

M^r Croghan will at Landing allways Attend the Major for Orders, & to give such Intelligence; as he may have had from the Indians throughout the Day.⁹

We left Presquisle on the 4th Nov^r Kept a Western Course, & by Night had proceeded about 20: Miles.

The Badness of the Weather Oblidged us to lay by all the Next day, and as the Wind Continued high, all our Progress on the 6th was but 10 or 12 Miles on a Course West South West.

We set out very early on the 7th & came to the Mouth of Choagage¹⁰ Ríver. Here we met with a Party of the Oatawawa¹¹ Indians just Arrived from De-

⁸ Lieutenant Diederick Brehm, uniformly misspelled "Brheme" in the printed text.

⁹ Here end the "orders."

¹⁰ Printed "Chogage."

¹¹ Printed "Attawawa."

troite. I Informed them of our Success in the total Reduction of Canada, & that I was going to bring off the french Garrison from Detrouite who we Included in the Capitulation.

I Held out a Belt, & told them (6) I would take my Brothers by the Hand & carry them to Detrouite to see the truth of what I had said. They Retired and held a Council & promised an Answer next Morning; that Evening we Smoked the Calumet or Pipe of peace, all the Officers and Indians Smoking by Turns out of the same Pipe, the Peace thus Concluded we went to Rest, but kept out good Guards.¹²

The Indians gave their Answer early in the Morning that their Young Warriors Should go with me while the Elder Stay'd to hunt for their Wives and Children. I gave them Ammunition at their Request, and a String of Wampam in Testimony of my Approbation.

I Charged them to Send Some of their Sachems or Chiefs with the Party who drove the Oxen along Shore, and they promised to Spread the News, & prevent any Annoyance from their Hunters.

We were detain'd here by unfavourable Weather till the 12th during which time the Indians held a plentiful Market in our Camp of Venison, and Turkies. From this place, we Steered One Mile West, then a Mile South, then four Miles West, then South West 10 Miles, then five Miles West and by South, then South West Eight Miles, then West and by (7) South Seven Miles, then four Miles West & then South West Six Miles which brought us to Elke River as the Indians Call it where we halted two days on account of bad Weather and contrary Winds.

On the 15th we reimbarked and kept the following Courses, W: S: W: two Miles W: N: W: three Miles W: by N: One Mile W: two Miles, Here we passed the Mouth of a River & then Steered West One Mile W: by S: two Miles W: by N: four Miles N: W: three Miles, W: N: W: two Miles W: by N: ten Miles, and we Encamped at the Entrance of a River 25 Yards Wide.

The Weather did not Admit of Our Departure till the 18th When our Course was W: by S: Six Miles, W: by N: four Miles, W: two Miles, Here we found a River about fifteen Yards over, then proceeded W: half a Mile; W: S: W: Six Miles and a half, W: two Miles & a half, N: W: two Miles, where we Encamped and discovered a River Sixteen Yards broad at the Entrance.

We left this place the Next day Steering N: W: four Miles, & N: N: W: Six Miles which brought us to Skanduski Lake.¹³ We Continued the same Course two Miles, then N: N: E: half a Mile (8) N: W: a quarter of a Mile, N: another quarter N: W half a Mile N: by E: one furlong, N: W by N: a quarter of a Mile, N: W: & by W: One Mile W: N: W: One Mile, and then W: half a Mile, where we Encamped near a Small River on the East Side.

From this place I detached M^r Brehme with a Letter to Mons^r Beslestre¹⁴ the french Commandant in theese Words.

¹² Added in print: "a little distrusting their sincerity."

¹³ "Sandusky Lake" in print.

¹⁴ François Mary Picoté de Belestre.

Sir :

That you may not be Alarm'd at the Approach of the English Troops under my Command, when they Come to Detroite ; I send forward this by Liut^t Brehme to Acquaint you that I have General Amherst's Orders to take possession of Detroite ; and such other parts as are in this District, which by Capitulation Agreed to and Signed by the Marquis de Vaudreuil and his Excellency Major General Amherst, the Eighth of September last now belong to the King of Great Brittain.

I have with me the Marquis de Vaudreuil's Letters to you directed for your Guiddance, on this occasion, which Letters I shall deliver you at my Arrival ; at or near your Post, and shall Incamp the Troops I have with me at some distance from the Fort, untill you have reasonable time (9) to be made Acquainted with the Marquis de Vaudreuil's Instructions & the Capitulation which Captain Campbell who Commands at Detroite this Winter has with him.¹⁵

To	I am
Capt ⁿ Belestre or the	Sir
Officer Commanding	Your humble Serv ^t
at Detroit	Robert Rogers.

The land on the South Side of Lake Erie from Presqu'isle puts on a very fine Appearance. The Country level, the Timber tall, and of the best Sort. Oak, Hickory and Locust, It is well Watered¹⁶ and for Game, both as to plenty and Variety perhaps exceeded by no part of the World.

I followed M^r Brehme on the 20th and took a Course North West four Miles and a half ; South West One, South four, South West two, and West three, to the Mouth of a River in Breadth about three Hundred feet.¹⁷ Here we found Several Huron Sachems, who told me that 400 Indian Warriors was Collected at the Entrance into the great Streight, to Obstruct our Passage, that Mons^r Besleter had excited them to defend their Country, that they were (10) Messengers to know my business and wither the Person I had sent forward had reported the Truth that Canada was reduced. I Confirmed this Account & that the Fort at Detroite was given up by the french Governour, I presented them a large Belt, and Spoke to this Effect.

Brothers,

With this Belt I take you by the hand, you are to go directly to your Brothers Assembled at the Mouth of the River, and tell them to go to their Towns till I Arrive at the Fort. I shall call you there as soon as M^r Belester is sent away which shall be in two days after my Arrival. We will then Settle all Matters. You shall live happily in your own Country, Your Brothers have long desired to bring this About, tell Your Warriors to Mind their Fathers¹⁸ no more for they are all Prisoners to your Brothers¹⁹ who pitied them, & left them their Houses, and Goods, on their Swearing by the Great Man²⁰ who Made the World

¹⁵ In the printed edition Rogers ends the letter with, "a copy of which I have with me likewise."

¹⁶ These four words are not in the printed text.

¹⁷ Directions and distances vary here from the printed text and are fuller.

¹⁸ Here added in the printed text, "(the French)."

¹⁹ Here "(the English)" added in print.

²⁰ "Great One" in printed text.

to become as Englishmen for ever. They are now your Brothers, if you Abuse them you affront me unless they behave Ill, tell this to our Brothers the Indians. What I say is truth. When we meet at Detroite I will Convince you it is all true.

(11) Theese Sachems set out in good temper the next Morning being the 21st but as the Weather was very Windy we did not Move from this place.

On the 22^d we Incamped on a Beach after having Steered that Day N : W : Six Miles & N : N : W : four, to a River of the Breadth of 20 Yards, the[n] N : W : & by W : two Miles, W : S : W : One²¹ W : four & N : N : W : five,²² it was with great Difficulty we could procure any Fewel here the West end of Lake Erie abounding with Swamps. We Rowed ten Miles the next day on a Course N : W : & by W : to Point Cedar, & then formed a Camp. Here we Met Some of the Indian Messengers to whom we had Spoken two days before. They told us their Warriors were gone up to Mons^r Besleter who said they is a Strong Man, & Intends to fight you. A Sachem of the Outawawa's was amongst them. All their Indians Set out with us the 24th We went N : W : & by N : ten Miles, and 14 Miles N : E : to a long Point.

This Night Sixty of the Indian Party Came to our Camp, Congratulated our Arrival in their Country, & Offered themselves as an Escort to Detroite; from whence they came the day before.

They added that M^r Brehme and his Party were Confined, & that M^r (12) Besleter had Set up a high flagg Staff with a Wooden Effigy of a Man's Head on the Top, & upon that a Crow, that the Crow was to Represent himself, the Man's Head mine, and the Meaning of the Whole that he would Scratch out my Brains. This Artifice had no Effect for the Indians told them²³ as they said, that the Reverse would be the true Explanation of the Sign.

After we had proceeded Six Miles North East, On the 25th we Halted²⁴ at the Request of the Indians who desired me to Call in the Chief Captains of the Party at the Streights Mouth. I did so and Spent the 26th at the same place in Conciliating their friendship.²⁵

The Morning on the 27th M^r Besleter sent me the following Letter by M^r Babbee²⁶

Detroit ce 24^e Novembre 1760²⁷

Monsieur.

J'ai receue la Lettre que vous m'avés ecrit par un de vos Officiers, Comme je n'ai point d'Interprete Je ne puis faire la Reponse Amplement.

L'Officier qu'il ma remis la Vôtre me fit sçavoir qu'il etoit detaché afin de m'annoncer de vôtre Arrivé pour prendre possession de Cette Garnison, selon la Capitulation fait en Canada, que vous avés Conjointement avec une Lettre de Mons^r de Vaudreuill (13) à mon Adresse.

²¹ Printed text has "west-north-west one."

²² Printed text has "west north-west five."

²³ Printed text has "told him."

²⁴ This date is omitted in the printed text.

²⁵ The printed text reads: "in conciliating their savage minds to peace and friendship."

²⁶ He wrote his name "Baby." It is variously spelled phonetically by others in contemporary records. He was a French trader and a lieutenant of Belestre at Detroit.

²⁷ This date heading is not in the printed edition, which, besides the French text, presents an English translation of the letter.

Je vous prie Mons^r d'areter vos Troupes a l'entree de la Riviere, jusques à ce que vous m'envoyés la Capitulation & la Lettre de Mons^r le Marquis de Vaudreuill, afin de pouvoir y Conformer

Je suis bien Surpris qu'on ne m'a pas envoyé un Officier françois avec vous selon la Coutume.

A Mons^r Mons^r
Rogers Major et
Commandant le
Détachement Anglois }

J'ai l'honneur d'estre &^{cc}
De Besleter

Shortly after a French Party under Captⁿ Barringer²⁸ beat a Parley on the West Shore, I sent M^r M^cCormick to know his Buisness who Returned with the Officer and this Letter.

Detroit ce 25^e Novembre 1760

Monsieur

Je vous ai deja marqué par Mons^r Berranger les raisons pourquoy, je n'ai pu répondre en Detail a la Lettre qui ma Etés remis le 22^{eme} du Courant par l'Officier que vous m'avés Detaché J'ignore les raisons pourquoy cet Officier n'a pas voulu retourner auprès de vous.²⁹

J'envoye mon Interprete Huron ches cette Nation que l'on me dit Etre Atroupé sur le chemin afin de les Contenir ne (14) Scachant positivement s'il, cest a vous ou a nous a qu'ils en veuillent, et pour leurs dire de ma part, Q'uils [*sic*] ayent a Se tenir Tranquils, qué je Scavois que je devois à mon General, et que des lors qué l'Acte de la Capitulation seroit en Regle, j'étois Obligé d'Obeir; ce dit Interprete a ordre de vous Attendre, et de vous Remettre la presente.

Ne Soyés point Surpris Monsieur Sy le long de la Coste vous trouverés nos Habitans sur leur Garde, on leur a Annoncé qu'il y avoit beaucoup de Nations à votre Suite, a qui on avois promis le pillage, et que les dittes Nations estoient mesme determinér a vous le demander; Je leur ai promis³⁰ de se gardér, c'est pour votre Conservation et Seurté [*sic*] ainsy que pour la nôtre en cas que les dittes Nations vissent a faire³¹ les Insolents, Seul vous ne Seriés peut être pas dans les Circonstances presentes en Etat de les Reduire.

Je me flatte Monsieur qu'avant que darriver vous voudriés bien m'envoyér par quelqu'un de vos Messieurs et la Capitulation, Et La (15) Lettre de Monsieur de Vaudreuill.

J'ai l'honneur D'estre
Monsieur,
Vôtre très humble et
Obeissant Serveur
Piquotu de Beslestre³²

A Monsieur:
Mons^r Rogers Major
et Commandant
le Detachement Anglois
au bas de la Riviere }

²⁸ Printed "Burrager," and no doubt correctly "Berenger."

²⁹ A slight variation here from the printed letter, which varies otherwise.

³⁰ Incorrectly "permis" in printed text — a construction also unfavorable to the French officer.

³¹ Printed text has "devenioient à faire."

³² The conclusion and signature vary from the printed text. See note 14. An English translation is added in the publication.

We Encamped next day Six ³³ Miles up the River having rowed against the Wind, and on the 29th I dispatched Captⁿ Campbell, with Mess^{rs} Barringer, & Babée, & their Parties, and this Letter.

Camp at the Island 28 : Nov^r 1760 ³⁴

Sir :

I Acknowledge the Receipt of your two Letters, both of which were delivered to me Yesterday; M^r Brehine has not yet Returned; the Inclosed letter from the Marquis de Vaudreuill will Inform you of the Surrender of all Canada to the King of Great Brittain and of the great Indulgence granted to the Inhabitants, as also of the terms granted to the Troops of his Most Christian Majesty, Captⁿ Campbell whom I have sent forward with this (16) Letter will Shew you the Capitulation; I desire you'll not detain him, as I am determined Agreeable to my Instructions from General Amherst — Speedilly to releive your post. I shall Stop the Troops I have with me at the hither end of the Town, till four o Clock, by which time I expect your Answer, Your Inhabitants under Arms will not Surprize me as yet I have Seen no other in that Position but Savages Waiting for my Orders; but this I tell you that the Inhabitants of Detrouite shall not be Mollested, they and you Complying with the Capitulation, but be protected in the peacable and Quiet possession of their Estates, neither Shall they be pillaged by my Indians nor by yours that have Joined me

I am &^{ca} &^{ca}

Robert Rogers

To

Captⁿ Besletre

Captain Campbell returned with M^r Besleters Compliments, Signifying that he was under my Command.

We rowed Eight Miles, and at half a Mile Short of the Fort, and fronting it I drew up my Detachment on a Field of Grass; from hence I sent Liut^t Lesley's & M^cCormick with (17) Thirty Six Royal Americans to take possession of the Fort. ³⁵

The French Garrison laid down their Arms; English Colours were hoisted and the Enemys taken down, At which 700 Indians gave a Shout, Merilly exalting ³⁶ in their Prediction that the Crow represented the English.

They Seemed Amazed at the Submissive Salutations of the Inhabitants expressed their Satisfaction at our Generosity in not putting them to Death, and Said they would allways fight for a Nation thus favoured by him that Made the World.

I went Into the Fort Received a Plan of it with a list of the Stores from the Commanding Officer, and by Noon of the 1st December we had Collected the Militia Disarmed them & Administred the Oaths.

The Interval from this time to the 9th was Spent in preparing Several Measures that Appeared to be Necessary.

³³ It is "five miles" in the printed edition.

³⁴ This date line is not in the printed text.

³⁵ The construction of this paragraph varies in some details from the printed text.

³⁶ The printed text has "exulting."

I put M^r Besletre & the other Prisoners under the Care of Liut^t Holmes and thirty Rangers to be Carried to Philadelphia, Captⁿ Campbell and his Company took possession of the Fort & It's Magasines;³⁷ Liut^t Butler, and Ensign Wait were sent with a Detached Party of Twenty (18) Men to bring the French Troops from the Forts Miami, and Yatanois.³⁸

I Ordered that if possible a party should Subsist at the former this Winter, and give the Earliest Notice at Detrouite, of the Enemy's Motions in the Country of the Illinois. I sent M^r McGe^e³⁹ with a french Officer for the french Troops at the lower Shwanese⁴⁰ Town on the Ohio and as Provisions were scarce directed Captⁿ Brewer to Repair with the greatest part of the Rangers to Niagara detain- ing Liut^t Mc Cormick and Thirty Seven More to go with me to Missilimakinac.⁴¹

I held a Treaty with the Several Tribes of Indians living in the Neighbouring Country, and having directed Captⁿ Wait just Arrived, to Return again immediately to Niagara; I set out for Lake Huron and on the Night of the 10th at the North end of the little Lake S^t Clair Encamped; and the next Evening on the West Side of the Streight at the Entrance of a Considerable River where many Indians were hunting. We opened Lake Huron the day following and Saw many Indian Hunters on both Sides of the Chops of the Streight.⁴² We travelled along the West Shore of the Lake about twenty Miles N: & by W: on the 13th; the next day forty⁴³ and on the 15th thirty Eight passing the Cakes of Ice with much difficulty.

We could not Stir all the 16th a heavy (19) North Wind Setting the Cakes of Ice on the South Shore in such Quantitys that we could find no passage between them.

I Consulted the Indians about a Journey to Missilimakinack across the Land but they declared it to be Impracticable at this Season without Snow Shoes and then to Our great Mortification we were oblinded to Return to Detrouite.

The Ice Obstructing we did not Arrive there tho we Rowed hard till the 21st⁴⁴

I delivered the Anmunition to Captⁿ Campbell, and on the 23^d Set out for Pitts- burgh Coasting⁴⁵ along the West End of Lake Erie till the 2^d of January 1761 when we Arrived at Lake Skanduski.

I have a very good opinion of the Soil from Detrouite to this place. It is timbered principally with Black and White Oaks. Hickory, Locust and Maple, We found Wild Apples all along the West End of Lake Erie, Some Savannas of Several Miles in Extent without a Tree, but Clothed with jointed Grass Six feet high which Rotting every Year Adds to Fertility of the Soil, The length of Skanduski

³⁷ In the printed text Rogers says he "ordered Capt. Campbell and his company to keep possession of the fort."

³⁸ "Miami and Gatanois" in the printed text.

³⁹ Alexander Mc Kee.

⁴⁰ Shawnees.

⁴¹ Printed text has "Michlimakana."

⁴² Printed "mouth of the streights."

⁴³ The printed text differs and reads: "the next day being the 13th forty."

⁴⁴ The printed text renders a different meaning to this sentence.

⁴⁵ It is "marching along" in the printed text.

(27) Common Road to Philadelphia, from
thence to New York where I arrived the
14th of February.

New York February 27th 1761

Pho B. Rogers

To Major General Monkton }
Brigadier General Monkton }

is ⁴⁶ from East to West and Six Miles across it. We came to the Town of the Windot Indians.⁴⁷

On the 3^d January we travelled S : E (20) by E : 3 Miles E : by S : 1 Mile and a half, S : E : a Mile, thro' a Meadow Cross'd a Small Creek about Six Yards Wide running East, travelled S : E : by E : One Mile, pass'd two ⁴⁸ Indian Houses S : E : about three quarters of a Mile and Came to a Small Indian Town of about ten Houses, there is a very remarkable fine Spring at this place rising out of the Side of a Small Hill, with such force that it Boils above the Ground in a Column three feet high; I Imagine it Discharges twenty⁴⁹ Hogsheads of Water in a Minute, from this Town our Course was S : S : E : three miles, South two Miles Cross'd a Brook about five Yards Wide Running East S : E ;⁵⁰ travelled S : S : E : two Miles, Cross'd a Brook Running S : E about Eight Yards Wide; this Day we killed plenty of Deer and Turkies on our March, and Encamped.

On the 4th January we Travelled S : S : E : 1 Mile, and came to a River about 25 : Yards Wide, Cross'd the River where there are two Indian Houses from thence S : by E : 1 Mile, S : S : E : One Mile and a half S : E : two Miles S : S : E : 1 Mile, came to an Indian House where there were a familly of the Wyandots hunting, from thence S : by E : one quarter of a Mile S : 5 Miles, came to the River we Cross'd this Morning, the Course of the River here is W : N : W : this day Kill'd Several Deer (21) & other Game and encamped.

On the 5th Travelled S : S : W : half a Mile South 1 Mile, S : S : W : $\frac{3}{4}$ a Mile,⁵¹ Cross'd two Small Brooks running East went on S : S : W : half a Mile, South $\frac{1}{2}$ a Mile, S : E : $\frac{1}{2}$ a Mile; S : 2 Miles, S : E : One Mile S : $\frac{1}{2}$ a Mile, Cross'd a Brook running E : by N ; Travelled S : by E : half a Mile S : S : E : One Mile,⁵² Came to Maskongom Creek about Eight Yards Wide, Cross'd the Creek, & encamped about 30 Yards from it this day Kill'd Deer & Turkies on our March.

On the 6th we Travelled E : N : E : half a Mile, E : S : E : half a Mile, S : S : E : half a Mile, East three quarters of a Mile S : S : E : half a Mile, Cross'd a Small brook S : E : one Mile, S : E : by E : half a Mile East, half a Mile South, three quarters of a Mile Cross'd a Brook running E : N : E : travelled S : E : three quarters of a Mile, South half a Mile, S : S : E three quarters of a Mile, S : E : One Mile, Cross'd a Brook running E : by N : travelled S : S : E : half a Mile; Cross'd a Small Brook running N : E ; travelled S : E : two Miles, E : S : E : One Mile, S : S : E two Miles, & Cross'd a Brook running N : E : by N : travelled S : E :

⁴⁶ Here is inserted in the printed text, "about fifteen miles."

⁴⁷ Wyandots.

⁴⁸ Printed text has, "passed thro' Indian houses," an evident error.

⁴⁹ Printed text says, "ten hogsheads."

⁵⁰ Omitted here, but in the printed text, are these additional directions: "travelled south one mile, crossed a brook about four yards wide, running east-south-east."

⁵¹ Omitted here, but in the printed text, "south half a mile."

⁵² Printed text has, "two miles," and adds, "south-east three quarters of a mile, south-south-east one mile."

one quarter of a mile, & encamped by the Side of a very fine Spring. this day Kill'd plenty of Game.⁵³

(22) On the 7th Went on E: S: E: half a Mile S: E: three Miles, S: E One Mile, South S: E: by E: three quarters of a Mile, Cross'd the Maskongom Creek running South about 20 Yards Wide; An Indian Town about 20 Yards on the East Side of the Creek, this is Called the Mohigon Cabbins,⁵⁴ there were but two or three Indians in the place, the rest were Hunting, the Indians here had plenty of Cows, Horses & Hogs &^{ca}

The 8th I halted at this Town to Mend Our Mogosins, & Kill some Deer, the Provisions I brought from Detroit, being entirely Expended, I went a hunting with ten of the Rangers, and by 10 o Clock Kill'd More Venison than we Wanted.

On the 9th Travelled E: S: E: half a Mile E: three quarters of a Mile S: S: E three quarters of a Mile, and Cross'd a Small Brook running South, travelled S: E: half a Mile, E: N: E: two Miles East One Mile South, One Mile Cross'd a River about Sixty Yards Wide running S: W: travelled S: E: two Miles E: N: E One Mile, E: S: E: One Mile S: E: half a Mile, South One Mile, E: by N, three quarters of a Mile, & Encamped by the Side of a large⁵⁵ Meadow where there were a Number of Indians hunting.

On the 10th Set out Travelled E: S: E: half a Mile, Cross'd a Meadow three quarters of a Mile Wide, East half a Mile S: S: E One Mile, S: E: half a Mile Cross'd a Brook running East, travelled S: E (23) Four Miles and Cross'd a Brook run[n]ing E: by N: Travelled S: E: One Mile, E: N: E: One Mile, Cross'd a large Creek about ten Yards Wide, it Runs W: S: W: E: S: E: half a Mile, travelled up a Small Brook about half a Mile to our left where we encamped; this Day on our March Kill'd tree Bears & two Elks besides other Game.⁵⁶

On the 11th We travelled S: S: E: One Mile E: One Mile, S: E: One Mile, East half a Mile, Cross'd a large Creek running W: by S: travelled E: by N: four Miles E: by S: three Miles, E: S: E: One Mile, Cross'd a Brook runs S: S: W, Steered East Two Miles, & Cross'd a large Creek Running N: E: pass'd the Creek about half a Mile, and encamped, here were a Number of the Wyandotts, & the Six Nation Indians hunting.⁵⁷

On the 12th travelled S: E: half a Mile, East two Miles, Cross'd a River about 20 Yards Wide on the Ice, the River runs N: Travelled S: E: half a Mile, E: by N: half a Mile, S: E: One Mile, East One Mile, & came to the same River we Cross'd this Morning, at this place it is about 23 Yards Wide, a Swift Current runs South, at this River encamped, this evening went a hunting for Beaver killed some.⁵⁸

⁵³ The details of this paragraph are not given in the printed text, which simply says: "we travelled about fourteen or fifteen miles, our general course being about east-south-east." In fact, from this point the manuscript's details are full, but curtailed in the printed text.

⁵⁴ Printed text has, "Mingo Cabbins."

⁵⁵ Printed "long." The printed paragraph lacks the details of courses.

⁵⁶ The printed text is curtailed into three lines.

⁵⁷ This paragraph is curtailed in print to less than four lines.

⁵⁸ Curtailed in print to less than three lines.

On the 13th Travelled East about two Miles, E: N: E: two Miles, N: E: two Miles, & came to the Delawar Town Called Beavers Town, This Indian (24) Town Stands on good land on the West Side of the Mascongom River & opposite to the Town on the East Side is a fine River which Discharges itself into it, the latter is about thirty Yards Wide, and the Mascongom about 40 Yards a Cross, so that when they both Join they make a very fine Stream with a Swift Current running to the S: W: there are about 3000 Acres of Cleared Land round this place, the Number of Warriors about this Town are 180, all the way from Lake Skandusky, I found level land & a good Country; No Pine Trees of any Sort, the Timber is White, Black, & Yellow Oak, Black & White Walnut, Cyprus, Chesnut, & Locust Trees, At this Town I stayed till the 16th in the Morning to Refresh my Party, & get some Corn of the Indians to Boil with our Venison.

On the 16th went East two Miles, came to a Branch of the Mascongom which we followed up E: N: E: One Mile East, One Mile S: E: two Miles, Cross'd a Creek running South about 20 Yards Wide East One Mile, E: N: E: One Mile, N: E: One Mile, and encamped by the Side of a Small River.⁵⁹

On the 17th Travelled East two Miles and Cross'd an Open Plain E: N: E: One Mile N: E: One Mile, E: One Mile, and Cross'd a Brook running Southerly to the Ohio, Went E: S: E: two Miles, N: E: half a (25) Mile, Cross'd a large Creek running Southerly E: S: E: half a Mile, S: W: half a Mile, East One Mile, E: N: E: One Mile, E: S: E two Miles, East One Mile, N: E: half a Mile, E: S: E: two Miles, East One Mile, N: E: half a Mile, E: S: E two Miles, East One Mile; N: E: a quarter of a Mile; E: S: E: half a Mile; East One Mile; S: E: One Mile, East a quarter of a Mile, and encamped by the Side of a Small Run.⁶⁰

On the 18th Went East two Miles North a quarter of a Mile, East One Mile, S: E: One Mile, E: S: E: half a Mile, S: E: One Mile, East two Miles Cross'd a large Creek about 12 Yards Wide running South, travelled S: S: E: One Mile, E: N: E half a Mile, East One Mile, S: E: One Mile, East a quarter of a Mile, N: E: a quarter of a Mile East half a Mile, N: E: One Mile S: E: One Mile, East two Miles, and came to a Brook where I Incamped.⁶¹

On the 19th Travelled East four Miles, Cross'd a River about 20 Yards Wide S: by E: went E: N: E: two Miles, East One Mile, S: E: three Miles, East two Miles, Cross'd a River about 25 Yards Wide running S: S: W, went over some large Hills well timbered with Chesnutt & Oak, went S: E: four Miles N: E: by E: one Mile, East three Miles, and Encamped on the Side of a Small (26) River, here were a Number of Delawares hunting.⁶²

On the 20th went East four Miles, & Cross'd a River about 20 Yards Wide, Run S: by E travelled E: N: E: Two Miles, East One Mile, S: E: Three Miles East two Miles Cross'd a River about 25 Yards Wide Runs S: W: went over some large Hills abounding with Chesnut an[d] Oak S: E: four Miles, N: E: by

⁵⁹ The printed paragraph of this day is abbreviated to less than three lines.

⁶⁰ Printed text reads, "a small river." The paragraph is greatly curtailed.

⁶¹ Only two lines for this day in the printed text.

⁶² Curtailed to about six lines in print.

E : One Mile, East three Miles, E : N : E : two Miles, and came to Beaver Creek where was two or three Indian houses upon the Bank of Said Creek, On the West Side, and in Sight of the Ohio ; Bad Weather prevented our Journeying on the 21st but the next day we Cross'd the Creek, and went One Mile East, then South two to the Ohio which we Ascended One Mile upon an Easterly Course, then South South West half a Mile, then South South East a Mile, & incamped among a Party of Indian Hunters near a Brook, after travelling Twenty Miles South East.⁶³

On the 23^d we came again to the Ohio opposite to Fort Pitt. From thence I Ordered Liut' M^cCormick to March the Party across the Country to Albany, but after tarrying there till the 26th I set out and came the (27) Common Road to Philadelphia, from thence to New York where⁶⁴ I Arrived the 14th of February.

[Signed:] Rob^t; Rogers

New York February 27th 1761

To

The Hon^{ble} Brigadier }
General Monkton }

[Endorsed:] Maj^r Rogers's
Journal —

⁶³ Some reduction in the printed text for these days.

⁶⁴ Added in print at this point: "After this long, fatiguing tour." The signature, date line, and address to Monckton are of course not in the printed text.

REPRINTED FROM THE
BULLETIN OF THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
OF APRIL 1933

PRINTED AT THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
form p311 [iv-29-33 150]

CRYSTAL BOARD
PAMPHLET BINDER

Manufactured by
FAYLORD BROS. Inc.
Syracuse, N. Y.
Stockton, Calif.

